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SOURCE As indicated

THE GDR TRANSPORTATION COLLEGE IN DRESDEN

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

On 6 March 1952, the GDR government issued the Decree Concerning the Establishment of Training Institutes for Technical and Scientific Personnel in Transportation. The essential element in this decree was the establishment of the Transportation College in Dresden (opened 8 September 1952).(1)

Organization

The organization of the new college has been adapted to present-day transportation needs. At the head of the college is the rector. He is assisted by the senate of the college in all scientific and organizational questions, and by two prorectors in matters relating to the basic social-science courses, student affairs, teaching, research, and doctoral candidates. The college will, at first, have two faculties, one for transportation technology and another for transportation economics. Each faculty will be directed by a dean, who will be advised by the faculty council in all scientific and organizational questions. Students who have satisfactorily completed their studies under the Faculty for Transportation Technology will be granted the degree of Graduate Engineer (Dipl. Ing.); those studying under the Faculty for Transportation Economics, the degree of Graduate Transportation Specialist (Dipl. rer. oek. fuer Verkehrs-wesen).

The Faculty for Transportation Technology will cover the specialized fields of operations and traffic, machines and vehicles, construction technology, and safety devices and telecommunications. A planned special division for mathematics and natural sciences within this faculty, will conduct lectures and class exercises for the students of both faculties.

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In the field of operations and traffic, students will be trained as engineers for the following technical fields: railroad operations and traffic; highway transport operations and traffic, including city transportation; and water transportation; port traffic, and transshipping operations.

In the field of machines and vehicles, the engineering students will be trained to engage in construction, maintenance, and repair of Reichsbahn locomotives and cars. Another possibility open to students who have completed their studies in this field is to work to develop new types of locomotives and cars. If necessary, in the future, the college may also train engineers for the development and maintenance of vehicles in city transportation.

In the field of construction technology, students will be trained in railroad, highway, and waterway construction, including both the engineering and the economic aspects of these subjects.

The Faculty for Transportation Economics will teach basic transportation economics, and particularly transportation planning. Its members will also give the important lectures constituting the basic social-science courses to be taken by students in all fields. This faculty will train students as economists for the Reichsbahn, and for water transportation, motor transportation, highway administration, and the postal service. In addition to their teaching functions, some faculty members will engage in scientific research on the political and economic characteristics which distinguish transportation from other industrial production.

The Transportation College will serve not only as a scientific teaching institution but, as soon as the various institutes have been set up, it will also engage in considerable research and developmental activities in all fields of transportation.(1)

#### Facilities

To provide adequately for the numerous teaching chairs, institutes, administrative offices, and other facilities, planning on a generous scale has been inaugurated. The facilities of the college will include a dining hall, a library, and a boarding house for students. The buildings, designed by Professor Henn (fnu), doctor of engineering, will be constructed on grounds bounded by the Reichsstrasse, the Strehleener Strasse, the Ackermannstrasse, and the Reichenbachstrasse, which the Lord Mayor of Dresden has made available.

The total capacity of the college has been planned provisionally, during the period of initial development, at 1,300 students, including boarders.(1)

#### Living Allowances

The success of most students is no longer jeopardized by economic considerations and difficulties. Workers, peasants, members of the working intelligentsia, and their children, as well as activists, will receive a basic allowance of 100 DM per month plus a supplement of 20 DM. In addition, those students whose secondary-school certificates or annual intermediate examinations show grades of 2 (good) or 1 (very good) will receive a monthly performance bonus of 40 or 60 DM, respectively. Those students not entitled to receive a basic allowance according to these provisions will be paid a performance bonus if their secondary-school certificate carries the grade of 2 or 1, or if their grades in annual intermediate examinations average 2.2 (good) or 1.5 (very good). The monthly basic allowance in this case will be 130 DM for students with a grade of good and 150 DM for a grade of very good. In this case also, the student will be paid a bonus of 20 DM per month. During the first year of study, performance bonuses will also be paid to those

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students who have passed the special entrance examination or who, after having left secondary school, have qualified in special fields through practical experience or through attendance of night schools, plant schools, and other such schools. The payment of allowances will be administered according to the Decree Regulating Scholarships at Universities and Colleges of 20 September 1951 (Legal Gazette, Page 868) and its implementing regulations.

Students registered as Vorpraktikanten (students registered pending completion of required practical experience) will also receive a monthly subsistence grant which will make them independent of other support.(2)

Requirements for Admission

Admission to the Transportation College requires that the candidate be technically suitable and give assurance that he will collaborate actively in the fulfillment of social tasks connected with the building of the bases of socialism in the GDR. Completion of college preparatory education must be demonstrated by exhibiting a certificate of completion of studies at a secondary school, an evening secondary school, a six-semester technical school, or a Workers and Peasants Faculty.

If the candidate is unable to obtain such a certificate, he may apply for permission to take a special examination, given by the Transportation College. In this case, the candidate should submit, with his application for admission, certificates from schools which he has attended, certificates of participation in courses, such as night-school courses, and reference letters from his employers. It is important that such applications be submitted early. Preparatory courses for Reichsbahn employees who are to take the special entrance examination are already being organized. The Transportation College will determine, through consultation, what fields of knowledge require special emphasis on the part of candidates who are preparing for the special examination.

Physical suitability is another requirement for admission. The so-called "A" condition for service in the Reichsbahn is required in all technical fields of railroading. The physical examination is arranged for by the Transportation College after all documents supporting the application have been submitted. The candidate must present a police certificate showing that he has never been convicted of a crime. It should also be mentioned that candidates coming from school faculties also require a certificate of release from the Main Division for Schools and Education of the Bezirk administration having jurisdiction.

Admission application forms are to be obtained at the directorates general and directorates of the transportation enterprises, at secondary schools, at Workers' and Peasants' Faculties, or direct from the Transportation College.(2)

The acceptance of students is governed by the general rules applying to universities and colleges. A considerable number of the students will be drawn from the ranks of experienced workers in the transportation field, who already have extensive operating experience and who will secure new and specialized scientific knowledge in their fields at the college. For the students of the Faculty for Transportation Technology, one year of precollege practical experience in actual transport operations is required. Unity of theory and practice and a close relationship between the students and the workers in the transportation enterprises will be assured by assigning each student to a job in his particular field for 6 weeks of each year. The educational plans for the precollege practical experience and for the field work assignments have already been completed.(1)

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Field Training

The candidate for admission to the Transportation College will decide in advance on a specialized field of transportation and will be matriculated before beginning his studies. He will then take a year of precollege practical experience as a transportation employee before beginning his theoretical training as a student. In addition, he must complete a 6-week work assignment in the field after each of his first 3 years of study. In these field assignments, the student, with his year of study behind him, is expected to absorb and, if possible, originate new ideas in transportation operations. According to general instructions issued by the Ministry of Transportation, the transportation authorities will develop field-training plans for students. In all questions of practical field training, the office for field assignments of the Transportation College in Dresden, will be available to give advice.

An example of the required precollege practical experience is that required for students in the field of railroad operations and traffic: 2 1/2 months in the operations and traffic service of a small railroad station, 1/2 month in the railroad guard service, 3 months in the traffic service of a large railroad freight office, and 6 months in the operations service of a large railroad station. During these assignments the student candidate is expected to acquire the ability to discharge the functions of the switching master or the dispatcher, or those relating to passenger or freight handling. For other special fields equivalent demands are made.(:)

Courses of Study

The study of transportation requires 4 years, and is divided into basic and technical education. During the first 2 years of study, the student will obtain the fundamental knowledge for his training as an engineer, beginning with mathematics and natural sciences. Instruction in the broad fields of construction, machinery, electrical engineering, and transportation, given in a series of comprehensive survey lectures, will round out the basic education. In the following years of study, the student will take up the various branches of technology in land, water, and air transportation, with special emphasis on the operating technology of transportation equipment.

The student also requires a social-science and economic background. Beginning with general economics, the student must become familiar with the problems of a planned economy and of the legal system. The study of transportation economics will include special subjects, such as tariffs and statistics. Social-science studies will be rounded out with the history of transportation. Geography, and its application to transportation, will be taught as a special subject extending through all 4 years of study. German, Russian, and athletics are required subjects for all students.

The academic year starts at the beginning of September and is interrupted by the winter vacation (23 December-15 January). Each of the first 3 years of study will end with a practical field assignment, falling in the period from the beginning of June to mid-July. Examinations will be held during the first 2 weeks and the last 2 weeks of the spring semester.

At the end of the 4th year, the examinations for the diploma will be held. The preliminary examination will include such subjects as economics, law, geography, higher mathematics, physics, chemistry, descriptive geometry, mechanical drawing, engineering mechanics, and mechanical and electrical engineering.

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The examinations for the diploma will vary according to the subjects of specialization in most fields. For the specialized field of railroad operations and traffic, for instance, examinations leading to degrees will be held in the following subjects: economics of the people-owned economy, transportation economics, railroad traffic, railroad operations, highway traffic, and transportation geography. In addition, examinations will be held in the social sciences and in the German and Russian languages and literature.(3)

The examination subjects are set forth in the plans of study published by the State Secretariat for Higher Education.(1)

Those who complete the course at the college are assured of being employed in appropriate positions corresponding to their abilities in the transportation enterprises (railroads, water transportation, and motor transportation).(2)

The Transportation College is being granted full rights to confer doctor's degrees. Those who complete the doctoral requirements of the Faculty for Transportation Technology will become doctors of engineering and those taking their doctorates under the Faculty for Transportation Economics will receive the degree of doctor of economics in transportation.

There are already doctoral candidates at the college working on their dissertations on special problems of transportation.(1)

SOURCES

1. Berlin, Der Verkehr, Vol VI, No 9, Sep 52 (article by Prof Dr Hans Reingruber)
2. Der Verkehr, Vol VII, No 3, Mar 53 (article by Hermann Wagner)
3. Der Verkehr, Vol VI, No 9, Sep 52

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